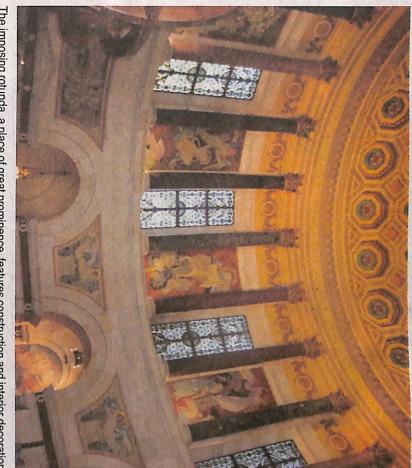
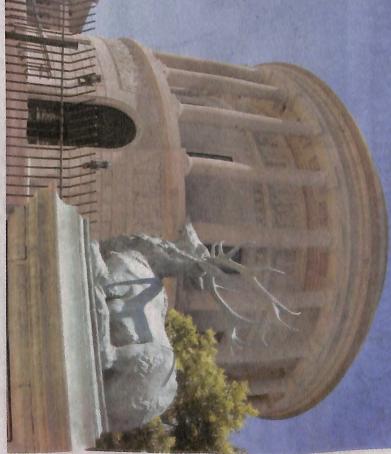
Elks National Memorial pays homage to America's veterans



The imposing rotunda, a place of great prominence, features construction and interior decoration that helped it be recognized as "one of the most magnificent war memorials in the world."



The Elks National Memorial, 2750 N. Lakeview Ave..

welcomes visitors free tours standing for 88 years, Lincoln Park monument

BY BOB ZULEY

If you're like many North Siders, you've probably walked or driven past the imposing Beaux Arts-style domed edifice standing at Diversey Pkwy. and Lakeview Ave. without knowing what it is or ever stopping

The Elks National Memorial, 2750 N.

Lakeview Ave., beckons and you won't soon forget the lavish tribute to all of our nation's armed forces veterans.

Constructed between 1924 and 1926, the building was commissioned by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks who wished to permanently honor the 70,000 members of their order who served in World War I. Ground was broken on this carefully chosen site overlooking Lincoln Park and Lake Michigan in 1923 and the cornerstone was laid on June 7, 1924, and officially dedicated on July 14, 1926.

In a design competition administered by the American Institute of Architects, Egerton Swartwout's design was selected from seven submissions for the building as being the most beautifully distinctive and functionally appropriate.

Swartwort's design combined the features of a contemplative memorial with those of a busy national administrative office creating one harmonious structure.

High quality Indiana limestone forms the imposing exterior while the finest marbles were obtained from Alabama, Missouri, Tennessee, and Vermont, as well as from Austria, Belgium, Greece, and Italy for nterior spaces. Visitors may note that the

various types of marble in the columns in the upper rotunda correspond to marbles visible on the rotunda floor.

The imposing rotunda, a place of great prominence, features construction and inte-

tures by James Earle Fraser recognized as "one of the most magnificent war rior decoration that helped it be memorials in the world." It sculp-Fraser depicting the Elks' four cardinal virtues: brotherly fidelity, and justice. features sculptures by James Earle love, charity, The rotunda

features

depicting the fidelity, and justice Elks' four cardinal virtues: brotherly love, charity, fidelity, and justice. Other sculptures by Adolph A. Weinman and Laura Gardin Fraser are

A. Weinman and Laura Gardin Fraser are prominently displayed.

The friezes portray "Triumphs of War" on one side and "Triumphs of Peace" on the other. A number of distinctive murals are displayed including those in the upper rotunda and Grand Reception Room by Eugene Francis Savage, and in the entry hall by Edwin Howland Blashfield.

The Grand Reception Hall is a masterpiece in rare woods, palatial Oriental rugs, and fine furnishings including hand-carved adornments, hand-painted windows, and gold leaf applique.

The entrance is flanked by two large bronze sculptures of elks. The elks rededicated the memorial in 1946, 1976, and 1994.

bronze sculptures of elks. The elks rededicated the memorial in 1946, 1976, and 1994 to honor veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam and all subsequent conflicts. The memorial now pays homage to all veterans. On Oct. 1, 2003, the City of Chicago granted the memorial landmark status. From now through October 26, the Elks National Memorial hosts the Chicago

Sculpture International 2014 Biennial Exhibition, Invoking The Absence, curated by Lucas Cowan. The juried exhibition features the artwork of 22 artists playing with the notions of void and its existence in space, time, and order, abstraction, and conflict. The event is free and open to the

nados may recall scenes from four movies were filmed at the Elks National Memorial. In 1950, Julius Caesar, the first film adaptation with sound of Shakespeare's play was filmed with Chicago area actors, including Charton Heston as Mark Antony as the only paid cast member. The movie also featured Jeffrey Hunter, Harold Tasker, and David Bradley. Trivia buffs and motion picture aficio-

(1976, starring Gregory Peck), What About Bob (1991, starring Bill Murray and Richard Dreyfuss), and Richie Rich (1994, starring Macaulay Culkin) were shot at the Elks National Memorial. More recently, scenes

and is closed for winter - reopening in April 2015. open free-of-charge from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Monday to Saturday through November 15 after an extensive four-year restoration. It is The memorial reopened in April, 2013,

patiently answer questions or lead small group downs. Visitions may include vectorians, nearby Lincoln Park/Lakeview residents, Elks from Canada, or New Zealand farmers. For more information, call 773-755-4876. Accommodating docents are available to





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